officers who are one level below the Board of Nationalised Banks, the CBI requires prior sanction of the Secretary of the administrative Ministry before initiating investigation. This is to prevent investigation into vexatious, frivolous and malicious complaints, which would demoralise officers at senior levels on the one hand and enable the CBI on the other to concentrate its attention on cases of serious nature.

अभ्यावेदनों/आवेदनों के संबंध में कार्यवाही न किये जाने के लिये उत्तरदायी अधिकारी

2746. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कतिपय अधिकारियों को अभ्यावेदनों/ज्ञापनों एवं आवेदनों के संबंध में नियमों के अनुरूप कार्यवाही न किये जाने के लिये उत्तरदायी ठहराया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे अधिकारियों के संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उनके विरुद्ध किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की गयी है?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० आर० बालसुब्रहमण्यन): (क) से (ग) लोक शिकायतों पर शीघ्र कार्रवाई करने हेतु केन्द्रीय सरकार के मंत्रालयों/विभागों में वरिष्ठ स्तर के अधिकारियों को लोक शिकायत निदेशक के रूप में पदनामित किया गया है। उन्हें कहा गया है कि वे लोक शिकायतों के निपटान पर निगरानी रखें और किये गये निपटान की तिमाही रूप से समीक्षा करें। आवेदनों को तत्काल निपटाने और शिष्टाचार दिखाने तथा ऐसे कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध जो कार्य के निपटान में विलंबकारी तरीके अपनाएं और जानबूझकर विलंब करें, अनुशासनिक कार्रवाई करने हेतु केन्द्रीय सिविल सेवा (आचरण) नियमावली, 1964 में पर्याप्त प्रावधान किये गए हैं। लोक शिकायतों की पावती भेजने/अंतिम रूप से उनका निपटान करने के लिए समय-सीमा निर्धारित करने के संबंध में भी केन्द्रीय सचिवालय कार्यालय पद्धति नियम-पुस्तिका में प्रावधान किए गये हैं। इस संबंध में अलग-अलग मंत्रालयों/विभागों द्वारा कार्रवाई की जानी होती है। इस बारे में कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई से संबंधित कोई आंकड़े इस मंत्रालय में नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

Termination of extension of Central Government Officers

2747. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answers to unstarred Questions 105 and 1345 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1996 and the 6th March, 1997, respectively, and state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the decision to grant extension to officers in Central Government Ministries/Departments and terminate extensions given to them; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to give extensions to the Officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above who are going to superannuate in the near future; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir. Extensions in service have been granted in the public interest.

(b) No, Sir.

CBI investigation into failure to apprehend Ottavio Quattrocchi

2748. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation would be asked to investigate into the reasons and circumstances leading to failure to apprehend or interrogate the italian citizen, Ottavio Quattrocchi, in July, 1993, despite disclosure of facts

suggesting his involvement in the Bofors payments; and

(b) whether there is a prima facie evidence to suggest that the CBI was advised not to disturb Quattrocchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) On the 23rd July, 1993, CBI became aware that Shri O. Quattrocchi was one of the appellants in the Bofors case which was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Switzerland on the 12th July, 1993. The matter concerning action against him was considered in the CBI, but for lack of evidence or documents concerning his involvement in the case other than being an appellant only, it was not considered legally feasible to take any action against him at that point of time. With the receipt of certain relevant documents from the Swiss authorities by the CBI in January, 1997, steps have been initiated by the CBI to have Shri Quattrocchi, who is presently residing in Malaysia, arrested and extradited to India.

(b) No, Sir.

Recruitment of women drivers

2749. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue directions to recruit women drivers, if available, for driving Government cars, with a view to promote welfare of women; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Instructions/directions have been issued by this Department prescribing method of recruitment and the scheme of promotion for staff car drivers. The directions make no discrimination in the matter of recruitment of staff car drivers on the basis of gender.

LPG distribution network in Maharastra Villages

2750. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG distribtion agencies have been sanctioned for big villages and clusters of small villages in Maharashtra, to reduce the pressue on fuelwood used by villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) the number of villages in Nagpur district of the State, covered so far under the LPG distribution network;

(d) whether Government propose to bring more villages under the network during 1997-98; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) As per the existing policy, LPG distributorships are planned to be opened in towns having population of 10,000 and above in a phased manner provided potential of the town including that of the adjoining villages within 15 KMs radius is adeqate to sustain a viable LPG distributorship.

51 LPG distributorships have been included in the draft LPG Marketing Plan 1996—98 for Maharashtra including 3 locations for Nagpur District viz., Kalmeshwar, Dhaha, Narkhed.